

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 DODE-00 L-03 MC-02

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 /075 R

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NEA - MR. ATHERTON

PM - MR. STERN (SUBS)

S/S -REWOODS

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R 080005Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, PK, IN

SUBJECT: SALE OF ITALIAN M-113A1 APCS TO INDIA

REF: A) ROME 5171; B) STATE 88581; C) NEW DELHI 5287

1. YOU MAY INFORM THE ITALIANS THAT WE ARE STILL CON-
SIDERING THEIR REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO SELL ITALIAN-MADE
M-113A1S TO THE INDIANS, BUT WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE TRANSACTION, I.E.,
HAVE THERE BEEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE INDIANS AND CONCRETE
SIGNS OF INDIAN INTEREST, OR IS THE PROPOSED SALE MERELY
AN EXPRESSION OF ITALIAN INTEREST IN TRYING TO SELL APCS
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TO INDIA.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM THE ITALIANS THAT CURRENT U.S. PRODUCTION SCHEDULING FOR THE M-113A1 IS VERY TIGHT. SINCE THIS PROPOSED PRODUCTION WOULD NOT BE FOR THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES, WE COULD NOT ATTACH THE SAME IMPORTANCE WE WOULD OTHERWISE ACCORD TO FACILITATING PRIORITY DELIVERY OF COMPONENTS AND SUB-ASSEMBLIES WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED BY THE ITALIAN MANUFACTURER SHOULD AN EVENTUAL ORDER CALL FOR ACCELERATED DELIVERY.

3. FYI: OUR CONCERN IS THAT THE ITALIANS, IF WE APPROVE A THIRD COUNTRY SALE, MIGHT SEEK TO INVOKE ARTICLE 17(A) OF THE 1963 MOU GOVERNING APC PRODUCTION. THE USG AGREED, IN ARTICLE 17(A), "TO USE ITS BEST EFFORTS TO ASSURE THAT M113 PRODUCTION SCHEDULING IN THE U.S. PROVIDE TIMELY RESPONSE TO ITALIAN PURCHASES MADE IN THE U.S." PROGRAMMED U.S. PRODUCTION FOR U.S. FORCES IS KEYED TO THE AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN U.S.-MADE PACING ITEMS SUCH AS TRANSMISSIONS; THESE ITEMS ARE ALSO PROCURED BY THE ITALIAN MANUFACTURER FROM THE SAME SOLE U.S. SOURCE. THUS, PRIORITY DELIVERIES TO THE ITALIAN MANUFACTURER OF PACING ITEMS NEEDED FOR AN INDIAN ORDER WOULD CAUSE DELAYS IN THE PRODUCTION OF APCs INTENDED FOR U.S. FORCES. IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO OUR INTERESTS TO IMPOSE DELAYS ON OUR OWN PRODUCTION SO THAT THE ITALIAN MANUFACTURER COULD OFFER ACCELERATED DELIVERIES OF THIS VEHICLE TO A THIRD COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT DECIDED ON WHETHER WE WILL APPROVE THIS POSSIBLE SALE, WE WANT TO PROVIDE ADVANCE NOTICE THAT THE ITALIAN MANUFACTURER MIGHT ENCOUNTER DELAYS DUE TO BACKLOGS IN OBTAINING SOME COMPONENTS. END FYI.

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL THE ITALIANS THAT IF WE AGREE TO THE SALE, FINAL APPROVAL WOULD, OF COURSE, BE CONTINGENT ON OUR RECEIVING STANDARD WRITTEN THIRD-PARTY ASSURANCES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. BEFORE GIVING APPROVAL FOR ANY FUTURE SALE OF ITALIAN APCs TO INDIA, WE WOULD NEED A WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE FORMER WILL NOT TRANSFER SUCH DEFENSE ARTICLES, IF NOT DEMILITARIZED, TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRY OR PERSON WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THIS IS A STANDARD COMMITMENT REQUIRED OF THE PROPOSED RECIPIENT IN ALL THIRD-PARTY TRANSFER CASES; IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT A SPECIAL REQUIREMENT IMPOSED UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. OUR NORMAL PROCEDURE IS TO REQUEST OUR EMBASSY IN THE PROPOSED RECIPIENT COUNTRY TO SEEK THIS COMMITMENT IN THE FORM OF A DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM THE HOST

GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY DELHI SHOULD NOT, REPEAT, NOT RAISE
THIS QUESTION WITH GOI AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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